

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66612

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPE:GWOLFE

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPE:DLAMB

----- 081306

R 092223Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS 7969

UNCLAS STATE 197766

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 20898 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CARACAS
& USUN NEW YORK DATED 4 SEPT 1974:

QTE

UNCLAS PARIS 20898

CARACAS FOR USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS FR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED INTERIM LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED
MINING AND 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE

REF: STATE 193107

1. WE BELIEVE THAT INTENSITY OF FRENCH REACTION TO
POSSIBLE UNILATERAL US STEPS ON LOS QUESTIONS WOULD
DEPEND ON WHICH ONE OF BILLS WAS PASSED. FRENCH WOULD
OF COURSE BE DISAPPOINTED AT PASSAGE OF EITHER BILL,
WHICH THEY WOULD SEE AS PREJUDICIAL TO CHANCES OF
NEGOTIATING PACKAGE AGREEMENT IN WHICH THEIR LOS AIMS
CAN BEST BE MET. GOF REACTION, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO BE
LIMITED TO ATTACKS ON US ACTION AND/OR EFFORTS TO LIMIT
DAMAGE TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

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2. FRENCH INTERESTS WOULD BE MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED

WERE FISHERIES BILL TO PASS: GOF (AS MARITIME AND DISTANT-FISHING NATION) OPPOSES EXCLUSIVE COASTAL STATE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES, AS WELL AS UNILATERALLY DECLARED 200-MILE ZONES. WHILE ANGERED BY SUCH US ACTION, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT RETALIATE BY SIMILAR EXTENSION OF FISHERIES ZONE AS THIS WOULD PREJUDICE THEIR POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE IMPORTANT WEST AFRICAN FISHERIES.

3. GOF REACTION TO POSSIBLE USG LICENSING ACTIONS ON DEEP SEABEDS LIKELY TO BE LESS ACID. FRENCH THEMSELVES HAVE FAVORED WEAK INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OVER EXPLOITATION (AND MAXIMUM ROLE FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS). THEY WOULD NONETHELESS ATTACK UNILATERAL NATURE OF US ACTION (UNDER INTERNATIONALLY ALLOCATED LICENSES FRENCH COMPANIES COULD HOPE TO GET MORE CONTRACTS THAN UNDER FREE COMPETITION). BUT HERE AGAIN WE DO NOT SEE ANY RETALIATORY ACTION THEY COULD OR WOULD TAKE. STONE UNQTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, SEABED, MINING, FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE197766
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:GWOLFE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740251-0356
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740962/aaaacals.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 193107
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED INTERIM LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED MINING AND 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE
TAGS: PLOS, PGOV, PFOR, US, FR
To: EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005